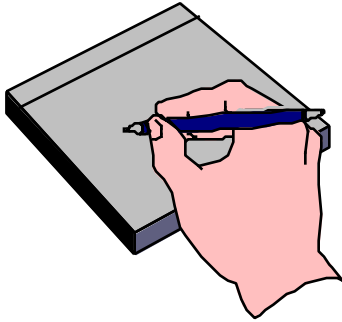


“ ALBATROSS “

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**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the new millennium as the pressure on the world's oceans to provide food for human kind increases. Then so to is the decline in many species. Albatrosses and other seabirds migratory Shearwaters and Petrels along with Cetaceans are biological indicators to the state of our oceans.

By all recent accounts all is not well out on Mother Ocean.

**SHORE LINES**

**STALWART RETIRES**

West Australian Ross Payton has officially hung up his Kowa spotting scope. Unfortunately due to illness Ross is no longer able to report his sightings from Busselton in South Western Australia.

Many of the members will miss his summaries of Seabirds sighted from Busselton in the "Boat Trip Reports". Over the years Ross spent many hours scanning the horizon for seabirds and cetaceans. From his lounge room using a Kowa telescope. He has added greatly to our knowledge of the occurrence and movements of seabirds in the Southeast Indian Ocean. Now thanks largely to his efforts and those of his wife Ann, we now have some excellent Base-Line Data. We now know what we can see and when we can expect to see them.

To my knowledge this is the most complete Data Set on the occurrence of seabirds in South Western Australia

I applaud Ross for his outstanding and unique efforts Ed.

**STRANDED BABY FUR SEAL**

Stranded baby Fur seal at Wollongong Harbour a call for help from The Wildlife Information Rescue Emergency Service (WIRES) Found us confronted with a baby Fur Seal hauled out on the Breakwater. A brief inspection showed that it had managed to free it's self of the fishing gear in which it had become entangled. It showed signs of recent injuries to it's back.

With the assistance of Belinda from WIRES and some young lads it was soon captured and taken to the veterinary clinic where Mike Cannon gave it a complete physical check and us the news that the poor thing was constipated. Due to this, it was down on condition and needed to gain condition before it could be released back to the wild.

Great! Just what we need! What do we do with a baby Fur Seal on a suburban house block!  
Help!



Arrangements were quickly made to transfer the seal to the National Road Motorist Association's (NRMA) Wildlife Clinic at Taronga Zoo the following day!

After six weeks of care and rehabilitation the baby seal was released back into the wild By the Jervis Bay Parks and Wildlife people.

## SEA SERPENT

A yellow-bellied sea snake was found ashore in March. This was handed to SOSSA by Wildlife Information Rescue Service Inc. WIRES for rehabilitation, which was successful. The day before it was due for release we were contacted by the Australian Venom Research at Melbourne University. Could they have the specimen for their research. The New South Wales National Parks licensing department was contacted and the go-head given for the sea snake to go.

It was to be housed in a wooden crate with the lid screwed down air holes small enough that no fingers could enter. Not the sort of thing we usually have hanging around!

Enter the "Don" Harkness, Snake box builder extraordinaire, Who built a much admired Snake Crate and the beast was on it's way. It arrived in Melbourne safe and sound, Hopefully now adding to our knowledge of the species. Many thanks to all who assisted Ed.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## News Release

4<sup>th</sup> January 2001

### "And still they die" *"The slaughter of endangered albatrosses must end"!!!!*

says Lindsay Smith President of the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc. (SOSSA).

In the last month, five albatrosses have been found dead on the south coast of New South Wales and all are suspected victims of longline fishing. One bird, a Great Albatross (species not yet confirmed) had the hook, line and trace still attached. Another, a Black-browed Albatross had been clubbed to death, the lower section of the bill showed injuries consistent with that of birds caught on a longline. An endemic Shy Albatross was also found to have injuries consistent with being hooked on a longline.

The incidental catch (or by-catch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations was listed as a key threatening process on the **Federal Endangered Species Protection Act (ESPA) in 1995**. As a result, Environment Australia released a Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) to address the albatross by-catch problem in 1998. The Threat Abatement Plan requires industry to use measures to avoid seabird bycatch and to report all seabird interactions to Environment Australia. Environment Australia has confirmed that none of the albatross we found dead were reported by longline fishermen operating in the area at the time.

Lindsay Smith asks, Why are these severely threatened birds dying when the Government has produced a Threat Abatement Plan to solve the problem? Clearly the longline fishing industry is not complying with it

Seventeen species of albatross are listed under the Federal legislation as threatened species, being either endangered or vulnerable to extinction. Australia also has international obligations to protect albatross under the Bonn Convention for Migratory Species.

"We expect the longline fishers to act responsibly and report the number of albatrosses that they catch. If possible retain the carcasses for specific identification and scientific research rather than throw them back into the ocean. This will allow a greater understanding of what is happening and valuable information will not be lost, states Lindsay Smith.

An independent observer program to determine the extent of seabird by-catch by Australian longline vessels has been opposed by the industry, and various reasons have been offered

conclude that the real reason is that industry does not wish anyone to know the true extent of the damage their activities are having on seabird populations. This recent evidence of unreported by-catch constitutes a good case for starting the independent observer program as soon as possible.

"These birds continue to die and someone should be held accountable. Ultimately the federal minister is accountable through the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Environment Australia". "Senator Hill needs to do more to ensure industry and AFMA are implementing his Threat Abatement Plan properly".

"We and many others have dedicated much of our lives to the preservation of these magnificent birds. It is devastating to see them drowning on longlines when we know that the industry could be doing more to prevent it. We believe that future human generations should also be able to enjoy the splendour of these amazing animals" says Janice Jenkin-Smith, Secretary of SOSSA.

SOSSA has conducted studies into the occurrence of albatrosses along the south coast of NSW since 1956. These studies are remote from breeding grounds and as such are the only studies of their type conducted anywhere in the world. SOSSA is recognised by albatross biologists worldwide particularly for its work with the Great Albatrosses (*Diomedea*) and Mollymauks (*Thalassarche*).

SOSSA is an independent, non-government organisation with an international membership. SOSSA has been recognised by international celebrities such as Sir David Attenborough. It is a grass roots organisation made up of dedicated people who contribute time, love, care, affection, knowledge and labour to preserving our natural heritage and its bio-diversity.

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Photo by Janice Jenkin-Smith

It was sad to see the loss of these 5 albatross  
Two "Wandering" types yet to be specified. A  
Juvenile Campbell albatross *T. impavida*  
Sub-adult Salvin's albatross *T. salvini* and sub-adult  
Shy Albatross *T. cauta*.

It's too late for these birds, they are dead and some  
Fisherman would have them Gone!

However these albatrosses are threatened species  
All seabirds caught at sea or parts there of should  
be retained for specific identification. Yet these birds  
were found floating in the ocean or beach washed,  
one with the Long-line Gear attached, another  
apparently clubbed to death and one apparently  
shot!

Listed endangered they may be, in the real world  
protected they are not. Ed.

**Report to Petrel Heads 2**

**Nicholas Carlile**

The conference was a great chance to get to know some people and I have been given some great offers to do field work on other projects around Australia, hopefully sometime in 2001.

David and I managed to wrangle ourselves onto a short half day field trip over the island of Oahu, where the conference was held. One of the more scary things we saw was that almost 95% of all the vegetation viewed while driving around the island was exotic. The place has been so badly trashed. One fantastic sight was a red-footed Booby colony (they are like Gannets) that was protected from the general public because it was in the firing range of a US Marine Base. The actual military people were keen to be seen as being green and had helped the US Fish and Wildlife protect the birds which actually were well out of range of the guns!! Their biggest problem was the chance of fire caused by accidental sparking of bullets. They stopped shooting for a couple of hours so that our group could walk among these birds (and take great photos) however we were not allowed to walk off the paths...we had no problems with that suggestion!

Straight after the day tour it was a 2.5 hour plane trip to Midway Atoll. As the name suggests it is Midway between everything. 4500km from the US, Asia and Europe. Nothing could have prepared us for the view we had upon landing

plane came down the runway, just on the verge of the grass we could make out Laysan Albatross sitting with their half-grown young. These birds nest on all available ground within the Atoll, which on the main island, Sand Island, is about 3km square. As we walked from the hanger to our accommodation we all were amazed at how close the birds were and they would simply sit and watch us walk past. At one point a pair went through a courtship display, ending in a loud trumpeting with their beaks pointed to the sky and we all burst into spontaneous applause! The following week was filled with sights and sounds of Albatross, 200,000 of them. These birds are totally unafraid of people. When cycling around on the narrow roads you were constantly having to avoid the courting adults or waddling chicks. The air was always filled with these huge birds. They were not alone as the island is shared with 14 other species of breeding seabirds including the beautiful Red-tailed tropic bird and the Bonins petrel (a dead-ringer for Gould's). Culturally the place is amazing as it has about 100 foreign nationals working there (\$1.00 a day!!). They basically run the place. The Sri Lankans had a celebration while we were there for the birthday for Buddha (Vesak) which is Christmas and Easter all thrown into one, and we were all invited. It was chanting with a Monk and listening about the life of Buddha followed by a huge feast. It was a most strange experience to be taken into this world then to walk out of it at the end and wander back to our barracks among the albatross. Diving and snorkeling saw me swimming with Green Sea-turtles, White-tipped and Galapagos Sharks, huge Eagle Rays and the endangered Hawaiian Monk seal. The fish life was just brilliant with heaps of endemics. The cost was also huge (\$300 Australian for a double dive). The whole trip left me amazed at the beauty and fragile nature of the bird world and how badly we can treat it (the history of how these birds have been treated on the island was pretty sad, but predictable). After 2 days and 4 flights I managed to cross the rest of the Pacific, across the USA and now I find my self on the western rim of the Atlantic Ocean on a collection of island called Bermuda. The islands were settled in 1612 by the British and the colony was brought to life by slave labour. The mix of the population of 60,000 today is Anglo, African, American Indian and Portuguese. As you can expect the environment here has been trashed exotic plants and animals cover the place. However the amazing thing is that one guy here is responsible for the saving of one of the only 3 native birds left on the island, and it was thought to be extinct for the last 350 years. The Cahow (Dark-rumped Petrel) was in danger of extinction before

to eat. The cats and pigs that they introduced did likewise and the birds disappeared from view. My host, David Wingate, a native of these islands, dreamed as a young boy of still finding these birds alive. At age 15 and with two others who had this dream, they found a population of these birds clinging to life on a rough offshore island on the islands south side. 18 pairs were found breeding but they were not being successful. Competition with the White-tailed Tropic bird meant that almost all nesting attempts failed. From this experience David vowed to make the survival of this species his life's work. That he has. Now the birds number 56 pairs and he has brought their breeding success to over 50%. The struggle from the brink of extinction is far from over. The birds originally breed on the main island, digging deep burrows in the soil. They were surviving on off-shore islands in rock hollows. The only way to really give these birds a chance to survive was to get them into some safe habitat, away from these rough islands. The big problem facing David was that the mainland was totally unsuitable. Almost 40 years ago David began restoring another larger offshore island near where the Cahow currently nests. Over this time he has planted 10,000 trees and created a new Eden. His holistic approach to island restoration has meant that almost every habitat historically known from the main islands is now represented on the Living Museum island called Nonsuch. The next big hurdle will be to introduce the birds to this new habitat. Hopefully the work we have done on Gould's petrel will help here. The artificial nest boxes will provide additional habitat and some of the information we have learned about this species will be applicable to the Cahow. The story is far from over for this beautiful bird (It looks a lot like Gould's) and to see how David has done all this is an inspiration to any conservationist. I will learn much in these two weeks.

After here I head back to Hawaii to work with the Dark-rumped petrel high up on the rim of an extinct volcano but that will be another story. Stay tuned.

Yours in petrels Nicholas

---

Part Two.

G'day I am still here in Bermuda and not just working with the Cahow petrel but also soaking up the amazing information that Dave Wingate has to offer on his island, Nonsuch, where he is life-warden. When he arrived there the 6 ha island had suffered total destruction of the forest canopy by a blight that hit Bermudas native cedar

regeneration. His first move was to remove the goats. These had actually done him a favour by stopping all of the invasive species from taking hold on the island. 95% of Bermuda's plant biomass is exotic plants. With this empty canvas David had a once in a life time opportunity. From 1962 until 1973 he planted 10,000 trees on Nonsuch. What he decided to create was an island that reflected Bermuda's native environment prior to people arriving in 1610. Because the island was relatively isolated he could control most plant and animal introductions by keeping a close eye on what came onto the dock. Some plant species are spread by birds so the island needs a little maintenance every year to stop them taking hold. The result is the development of a maturing forest that is total natural in look. Almost all the environments that occur on the main island are reflected on Nonsuch. This has included the creation of a fresh water and brackish water ponds and planting of all the marsh species that occur around them. This living museum now has tour groups visiting it. School children are taken there for educational classes on the natural environment. The place has been made a Nature Reserve, a status given to very few pieces of ground in this country. The Living Museum idea has not stopped there. The island has also been the starting place for reintroduction of fauna lost from the main islands. An endemic Night Heron was wiped out of Bermuda very early on in its history. The Heron use to feed on Land Crabs which had become so abundant that they were causing much destruction to lawns and golf courses (of which Bermuda's land mass is 10%). David brought 22 nestlings from the next nearest colony in Florida. It was not the same sub-species but at least the same species. From these 22 birds that he hand reared between 1976-78, the whole of Bermuda now has Herons breeding in any Mangrove Swamp and undisturbed forest patch. The Land Crab has been controlled and it has actually made the regeneration process on Nonsuch easier as the crabs would eat many of the smaller plants that David tried to establish.

One of the largest shell fish found on the Bermudan coast was the West Indian Top Shell. These were good eating and excellent for bait. Unfortunately they were wiped out by the 1800's. Not only did they lose the species but this had the added effect of preventing the endemic Land Hermit Crab from reaching a reasonable size as the dead Top Shell was an important home for them. David Brought in 80 Top Shells from the Bahamas 1200 km away and set them up on Nonsuch. Within a couple of years young Top shells started appearing on the beach around the

when a contract worker doing building work on the island decided to do a spot of fishing and collected almost all the remaining adult Top Shells. What he didn't use for bait was left high and dry to die in the sun. It was thought that the reintroduction was set to fail but on close examination of some of the other rocky shores nearby they found that the Top Shell had indeed got a foot hold and now appear all around the islands. They have also placed the species on the protected list. Green Turtles bred on Bermuda beaches until the late 1800's. The pressure of hunting them for their meat and eggs saw them disappear as a breeding animal on these shores. David decided to reintroduce them to the islands by bringing the eggs of Turtles here and have them hatch from the beaches of Nonsuch and the nearby Castle Island Harbour National Park. 16,000 little turtles successfully left the islands over a 10 year period but it will be a long time before they return to breed. It is estimated that they must be between 25 and 45 years old before they reach maturity. Not something that David will probably get to really enjoy but if they are lucky, the future Bermudians will have that pleasure. This whole process of the restoration of an islands ecology and the reintroduction of species is something that can be repeated in NSW. Lord Howe Island has lost 9 endemic bird species, Broughton Island, near Cabbage Tree, has been badly damaged by fire and introduced pests, as has Five Islands off Wollongong. The examples are many. What David Wingate has shown is that restoration is possible over large areas. This is very exciting for us to think about in Australia. I am looking forward to sharing his ideas and techniques with our land managers when I return. I fly out tomorrow for Hawaii and I am looking forward to the whole new world of ecology and the processes they are going through there. If I thought Bermuda was bad Hawaii will be another thing entirely. Hope things are good back in OZ. I miss lots about it but am getting heaps out of being here.

## **FIVE ISLANDS REPORT**

Lindsay E Smith

After an initial gloomy and slow start to the season the Little Penguins are making a comeback with good numbers of chicks fledging. Members of the research crew have been working on banding as many chicks as possible before they go to sea. On November 27<sup>th</sup> we were able to band over 40 chicks and 30 odd adults including many re-traps in our study site. Unfortunately we ran out of bands and our equipment was checked before the moment to

Most of the adult birds captured appeared to be young birds 3-5 years of age, hopefully the re-trap data will give some indication of the current population structure.

Sooty Oystercatcher work is also continuing both here, and down the coast at Murramarang and Bateman's Bay Toll Gates Islands.

#### INTERESTING BAND RECOVERIES

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche carter*) .Retrapped at sea east of Wollongong NSW July 8<sup>th</sup> 1997. The bird was carrying a French band CF34491. An Australian band 12138608 was fitted to the other leg. The bird was identified as being 3 years or older. It was recovered on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 at PT D'ENTRECASTEUX AMSTERDAM IS ANT FRAN it was caught by hand and released alive 6435kms distant from Wollongong.

#### ALBATROSS NSWASG Report

##### SEABIRD STUDY GROUP REPORT

PJ. Milburn

Banding Activity at Sea East of Tomakin, NSW. July 1999 to May 2000, inclusive.

Following in the footsteps of the outstanding results pioneered by Captain Carl Loves et al., working from the MV SANDRA K at sea east of Wollongong, NSW, a second SOSSA marine-banding station was established in the vicinity of Bateman's Bay, NSW, during the winter of 1999. With trainee banders Bruce Cattle and Rob Williamson, an investigation into the marine area east of Tomakin, NSW was undertaken, working aboard the MV INDET from the port of Mossy Point on the Tomaga River.

The outstanding coastal feature of the area is Burrewarra Point (S 35° 51' : E 150° 14'). The offshore reef structure in conjunction with the coastal topography appears to create conditions that provide an important foraging area for a wide variety of seabirds. In mid-winter, foraging flocks of hundreds of Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) and thousands of Prions (*Pachyptila sp.*) may be observed on the current lines east of the point. Reef structures from here toward the north-east provide spawning grounds for the Giant Cuttlefish (*Sepia aparma*) which attract

structures as far north as Durras and south as Tuross this is the only area in which *Diomedea sp.* have been found consistently. The neritic zone east of Burrewarra Point has been chosen as a study area. The continental shelf break lies some 20 NM due east of Burrewarra Point, running parallel to the coast.

This area regularly holds high numbers of pelagic seabirds for reasons that are unknown at present. To the south, important submarine features include Moruya and Tuross Canyons and a sea-mount east of Moruya. It is likely that other productive areas, known to the local Game Fishing fraternity, have not yet been identified in this study. The pelagic zone east of Burrewarra Point has been chosen as a second study area.

The reporting period terminates at May 31, 2000, because this was the last day of the austral autumn.

A number of significant sightings, which have been forwarded to the Eurobodalla Shire Ornithological Recorder, were made during the study period. These included: Southern Fulmar, Tahiti Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Blue Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Black Petrel Chatham Albatross, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Brown Noddy, Grey Ternlet and White Tern. Flocks of Sooty terns were also present for much of the summer. The influx of tropical species during the summer was particularly surprising.

Four of five (80%) *Diomedea* Albatross captured in the Tomakin Neritic Zone during the reporting period already bore Australian bands. All had been banded previously at Bellambi, NSW; one as long ago as 35 years previously and, another, as recently as three days prior to its capture.

During the reporting period three Gibson's Albatross that had been banded in the same season in the Wollongong Pelagic Zone (WPZ) were controlled in the Tomakin Pelagic Zone (TPZ). One Wandering Albatross, which had been banded as a chick three years previously at Bird Island, South Georgia, was captured in the TPZ during the reporting period.

One Wandering Albatross which had been banded in the period in the TPZ was recovered and released unharmed after being entangled in fishing line behind a Game-fishing boat at the Continental Shelf break east of Kiama, NSW a week later. One colour numbered Gibson's Albatross, which had been banded during the period in the TPZ, was controlled later in the season in the WPZ by observers (PJM et al.) aboard the MV SANDRA K.

One Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*) was captured with an Australian band that had been placed on the bird as a chick earlier in 1999 on Macquarie Island. This capture

The relatively high numbers of the Pterodroma Petrels captured significantly advanced our studies on these species.

It should be noted that despite being the most numerous Albatross in both study areas no Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) were captured during the reporting period.

The results from this initial eleven-month period have been very encouraging. Continuing improvements in both capture technique and skills should lead to increased capture rates over the current season. In combination, the banding efforts in the WPZ and TPZ are generating a significant number of banded individuals so one might reasonably expect that recapture rates would also increase.

### Whales, Dolphins Seals and other Sea Monsters

On the Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> a large pod of small Whales (Black-Fish ) was encountered just off Wollongong the pod was spread out over a wide area extending down to Port Kembla Harbour.

After much discussion by those experienced in cetaceans and their identification it was agreed that the pod contained, False Killer Whales *Pseudorca crassidens*, Pygmy Killer Whales *Feresa attenuata* and Melon headed Whales *Peponocephala electra*. Later in the day we were to observe two Hump-backed Whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* another pod of about 10+ Pygmy Killer whales and a further two Risso's Dolphins *Grampus griseus* in all a very exciting day for all.

### BIG FISH & TALL TALES Ross Hunter

We have had a reasonable season on the yellowfin tuna, having said this it very much worries me that the fish are all around the 20 to 30kg size.. These are all juveniles, as yellowfin do not reach sexual maturity until there 4 years old {about half their life span they live for 7 to 8 years and grow to around 70 to 120 kg

The pressure that these fish are under from longlining concerns me.

Having fished the tuna from the 1970's. I have the advantage of experiencing "tuna fishing without commercial pressure. The fact that long lining was not introduced to Australia until the mid eighties gives me a perspective from both sides.

The worry now is that no matter where the local schools of Yellowfin travel, and I talk mainly of fish that travel in our Tasman front. They have a long liner waiting to ambush them somewhere. You see we don't catch mature fish any more

we have another Southern Bluefin scenario looming on us? It is my personal opinion that Yellowfin tuna will be in trouble unless we take notice of the very obvious signs confronting us

Fishermen are a funny bunch and have a penchant for closing the gate after the Bulls bolted. We have only to look at other species like the Kingfish that were decimated in just Four seasons by trapping. Southern Bluefin purse-seined to almost extinction. Gemfish trawled to the point where trawlers were dumping the excess catch because the markets were flooded. Gemfish are now on a quota system and if a trawler catches an indiscriminate haul of Gemfish he cannot bring them back, because he may be over quota. Instead they are dumped at sea. Orange Roughy, a fish that lives up to 150 years with a growth rate of 2mm per year. Plundered off the sea mount St Helen's like there was no tomorrow.

Guess what no more Roughy!. The sad moral to the story is that it's the fisherman who is left with nothing to catch and he then can be found wandering around wharves saying "things are not like they used to be". We are indeed a weird mob!

On a lighter note the birds have been kind to us, lots of wanderers over the past 3 months, both in adult and juvenile plumage. One superb bird stuck in my mind. One of those big boys, that look like they are really old, sort of all white with an air of distinction about them as they fly past on giant 3.5m wingspans. I even saw one another day that was painted green! I wonder who the Michael Angelo was? Black brows and yellow nosed always entertaining and in numbers. Lots of giant petrels both northern and southern types, Flutterers by the thousands out to 60 fathoms all feeding on hatch of some kind. Fairy prions have been real busy, not so much this month but in August, there were thousands around...

Stacks of Wedgies migrating southward. A couple of mottled petrels and a reasonable number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels One of my favourite Alby's is the Shy. They never cease to amaze me how they can swim under the ocean's surface. I have watched them go down at least 2 metres to chase a scrap of pilchard. or something. I have not experienced this with any other of the species of Albatross.

The Tuna have been reliable and we have been graced by many terns and I had a wonderful sighting of a White-fronted tern The first one that I have seen. A real pretty little bird! We have also spotted heaps of Cape petrels once again in

I am still struggling with Grey heads, Bullers and Royals...Need a bit more 'edjamacatin" but I'm sure I've seen a few of these as well.

Had a great experience with a couple of resident White-bellied sea eagles off Kurnell. How good are the eyes on these fellas. We were fishing for snapper 1.5k off the shore when one of the anglers aboard caught a pike, he de-hooked it and returned it to the water and as pike do after being caught it lolled around the surface trying to regain equilibrium. Too late, as the eagle appeared as if from nowhere and scooped the pike out of the water before our very eyes! That eagle saw us throw that fish back from the cliffs how good is that for eyesight?

Another evening I was returning and travelling across Botany Bay. It had been a long day and I had Broadbill cranked up at 24 knots. A fresh north-west wind lashed the bay. I watched a White-bellied sea eagle catch a mullet amongst a school of feeding dolphins, a kilometre in front of me. With the fish in his talons he struggled to make way into the strong wind. His giant wings struggling to lift him and the mullet, into the air, thus making his forward progress a real task. I was tired after 10 hours in rough conditions offshore and I wanted to get home to a shower, a nice hot dinner and put my feet up for the day. The eagle too was tired, he had probably been trying to catch that mullet for hours. I was heading at him and he was making a rhumb line for his nest and struggling!

As we closed in on each other it was obvious that I was on a collision course, but he was determined to hang on to that mullet, despite the 12 tonnes of aluminium bearing down on him at a breakneck speed. Someone had to give way. My crew emerged from the cabin as I pulled back the throttles and let the eagle fly past the cockpit. I know he winked and nodded a "thank you"! as he laboriously edged closer to his nest. The ocean has been alive with whales, dolphins and birds. Kind of makes the job just that much easier.

Ross Hunter, Broadbill charters Sydney.

With the assistance SOSSA members and interested parties we were able to organise a special boat trip aboard the Sandra K for Jeremy.

A visit to the Five islands for an overnight stay 11<sup>th</sup> December 2000, We managed to have him fairly well exhausted. He now bears a few scars from the penguin and shearwater bites to show his grandchildren.

Next to working with the Wedge-tailed Shearwater and the Little Penguin the Cahow will be a push over!



Photo Stephen Bainbridge

### **Duncan & Michelle Walbridge**

It was great to catch up with Duncan & Misch We even had the opportunity to get them out on the Sandra K Game Fishing & Bird watching! We saw some fantastic Risso's Dolphins, and Bottle-nosed Dolphins swimming around a Massive Long line tangle with many kilometres of line just cut off and set adrift along the continental shelf.

We also managed to see many other sea monsters include a Giant Sun-fish approx 2metres diameter with a very long dorsal fin.

### **VISITORS to SOSSA**

Jeremy Madeiras Chief Conservation Officer visiting from Bermuda. Jeremy works with the "Cahow" *Pterodroma cahow*. One of the world's rarest seabirds. It was thought to be extinct for over 350 years before being rediscovered by David Wheaton.

### **Albatross – Book Review**

I congratulate Lance, (W.L.N, Tickell) on this outstanding achievement and contribution to Marine Ornithology. He has taken the albatrosses from the myth and legend of the ancient seafarers through



This work brings together all of the known species of albatross and their populations. He has called on the assistance of many colleagues, albatross researchers and friends from around the globe to produce the most up to date and comprehensive monographs of the albatrosses.

Lance shares his intimate experiences and knowledge of a lifetime's work with Albatrosses great and small. An out look on past events that have effected the breeding islands and their populations The staggering degradation and slaughter on mass scale involving many thousands of birds and their eggs.

Each species / form is discussed according to it's distribution and it's breeding range. In each account a summary of the history and taxonomy is given along with a description of each.

The four chapters on comparative biology discuss Moulting, Flight, Behaviour and Ecology.

The final chapter deals with rhyme and verse of albatross throughout history.

This is truly an extraordinary volume of work and well worthy of a special place on the book shelves of the marine ornithologist, naturalist or student.

Available from Andrew Isles Natural History Books,  
113-115 Greville St , Parhran Victoria 3181  
Australia.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Ron Tindall, Deflet Edgar,(Germany)  
Alexandra Stremke, Nicholas Carlile, Lisa  
O'Neill, Jeremy Madeiros, Bruce Cantle,  
Robert Williamson, Jillian Keating, Melissa  
Markham, Colin Markham. MP, Gary Nunn,  
Peter Wisniewski, Bob Moffatt.

**NEXT SOSSA MEETING**

held at HQ.  
10 Jenkins Street - Unanderra. NSW.  
We only supply the Coffee or Tea!!!  
No meeting for July, the next will be

**SOSSA'S A G M**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**( Colin Markham. MP )**

Colin is our Member for Wollongong,  
Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal  
Affairs &  
Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra

Colin will give a talk & presentation on the  
Animals & Birds he saw while on his trip in  
Africa.

Hope you can join us

**4.00 pm Sunday**  
**5 th AUGUST 2001**

held at HQ.  
10 Jenkins Street - Unanderra. NSW.  
We only supply the Coffee or Tea!!!

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE BBQ**  
AFTER THE MEETING,  
SO YOU ALL WOULD BE ABLE TO GET  
HOME AT A REASONABLE HOUR !!!



**MEMBERS IF YOU ARE UNABLE  
TO ATTEND**

**The Annual General Meeting**

**PLEASE SIGN & RETURN YOUR  
PROXY VOTE FORM**

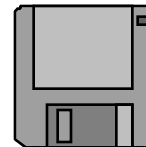
ALSO YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED  
2000 to 2001 Memberships are due  
**MEMBERSHIP FORMS**  
WHITE SHEET WITH RED WRITING

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**  
August 2001

(providing there are no major hold ups)

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IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING WE COULD PUT  
INTO OUR NEWSLETTERS, WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PUT IT ON A  
DISK IF POSSIBLE.  
WE WILL RETURN YOUR DISK.  
or EMAIL IF YOU CAN !!

THANK YOU



**DONATIONS \$2.00 and OVER  
ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE !!**

**HELP !!**

DUE TO COMPUTER FAILURE HERE AT SOSSA HQ.

WE HAVE LOST ALL OUR EMAILS !!!  
INCLUDING OUR ADDRESS BOOK.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD SEND  
US AN EMAIL, JUST SAY HELLO, WOULD BE  
FINE. THIS WILL ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR  
ADDRESS AND THAT IT ALSO IS CORRECT.

THANK YOU, MUCH APPRECIATED.

## DATES OF NEXT TRIPS FOR YOUR DIARY

**BOOKINGS INFORMATION  
FOR BOAT TRIPS  
For 2001  
Regular Trips**



**SANDRA "K"**

**SEABIRD WATCHING BOAT TRIPS**

**SANDRA "K"**

**SEABIRD WATCHING BOAT TRIPS**

**YEAR 2001 - BOAT TRIP DATES**

**23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE, 28<sup>th</sup> JULY 25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST,  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER,  
24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER.**

Book early !!!

**Note** Additional Research and or Game Fishing Private Charter Trips depart on a regular basis with the possibility of places being available outside of the regular monthly trips contact Capt. Carl Loves

**Wollongong Trip Bookings:**

**Illawarra Boat Charter. Ph: 0427- 423 500**

**SEABIRDS, WHALE WATCHING or FISHING**

**Captain. Carl Loves (SOSSA) (Sandra K)**

**Mobile: 61-427-423 500-International**

**PO Box. 148 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519**

**Email: Bookings for Sandra K:**

**[fishing@wollongong.starway.net.au](mailto:fishing@wollongong.starway.net.au)**

**Wollongong Bookings**

**Other Contacts and or information**

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Email: [Peter.Milburn@anu.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Milburn@anu.edu.au)

Phone: 61 2 6249 4326-w Fax: 61 2 6249 4326

GPO. Box 334 Canberra. ACT. 0200

or

**SOSSA**

Email: [sossa@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sossa@ozemail.com.au)

Phone: 61 2 4271 6004

Fax: 61 2 4272 4626

PO. Box. 142. Unanderra. NSW. 2526

Tony Palliser (SOSSA) Ph hm..02-9411 5272  
Ph mb..... 0416 095875 fx wk.. 02-9900 1669  
Email: Bookings for [palliser@oracle.com](mailto:palliser@oracle.com) (work)

**Sydney: Trip Bookings: Ph wk.. 02-9900 1678**

**Tony Palliser (SOSSA) Ph hm..02--9411 5272**

Ph mb..... 0416 095875 fx wk.. 02-9900 1669

**Email: Bookings for [palliser@bigpond.net.au](mailto:palliser@bigpond.net.au)**

Pelagic Reports On Home Page Website Address:

**<http://users.bigpond.net.au/palliser>**

**Brisbane Trip Bookings: Ph: 07 3391 8839**

**Paul Walbridge. (SOSSA) Fax: 07 3391 8839**

**135 Lytton Road East Brisbane QLD 4169**

**Email: Bookings: [prion@powerup.com.au](mailto:prion@powerup.com.au)**

**Portland Trip Bookings: Ph: 03- 9787 7136**

**Mike Carter. (SOSSA)**

**30 Canadian Bay Road Mt. Eliza VIC 3930**

**Perth Information: Ph: 08-9386 5694- H**

**Frank O'Connor.(SOSSA) Ph: 08-9167 1445- W**

**8c Hardy Road, Nedlands. W.A. 6009**

**Email: Bookings for**

**Perth:[foconnor@iinet.net.au](mailto:foconnor@iinet.net.au)**

**Eden Information: Ph: (02) 6495 7390**

**Barbara Jones Email Bookings for Eden**

**[dbjones@acr.net.au](mailto:dbjones@acr.net.au)**